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Alfalfa Farming in America. By Joseph E. Wing. 528 pp. Ills., index. Sanders Publishing Co., Chicago, 1912. \$2. 8 x 5½.

One would hardly believe at first thought that 522 pages of rather close print could be devoted to the subject of alfalfa. By introducing in great detail the history of alfalfa, the methods of planting, developing and harvesting, the variety of uses and the occurrence of the product on different parts of the earth's surface, this considerable volume has been compiled.

The book seemingly is intended to be read as a story. It is also intended to excite sufficient interest to cause the reader to enter upon the alfalfa growing industry at once. It will undoubtedly serve well as a reference book for those who may seek special information concerning "seeding and cutting," "alfalfa diseases," "alfalfa for the silo," and like details. A rather complete index adds to its value.

EUGENE VAN CLEEF.

Principles of American Forestry. By Samuel B. Green. xiii and 334 pp. Ills., index. John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1911. \$1.50. 7½ x 5½.

This book meets in a very attractive way the needs of elementary students and the general reader. The contents cover an adequate statement of the tree, tree growth, the forest, forest influences, tree planting on prairies, propagation, regeneration, protection and mensuration of forests, nursery practice, rate of increase in timber trees, uses and durability of woods, forest economics and a very valuable and suggestive chapter on forest problems dealing with many special, typical cases.

To the geographer all is interesting, but the fourth chapter is most germane. It contains little that is new, but the grouping of data is excellent and the statement lucid. Forests prevent evaporation, retard snow melting, and delay surface distribution of water, hence are conducive to perennial streams, high water-table, and perpetual and copious springs; they are condensers of dew, and gatherers of frost and ice. They apparently do not increase rainfall but greatly enhance its effectiveness. On the treelessness of the prairies chief weight is given to scanty rainfall poorly distributed through the year, coupled with great evaporation. Burning by Indians to aid grass growth is a contributing cause. Tables of silvicultural data, and uses of important American trees, glossary and bibliography follow the text.

G. D. HUBBARD.

Our Vanishing Wild Life, Its Extermination and Preservation. By William T. Hornaday. xv and 411 pp. Maps, ill., index. Charles Scribner's Sons, New York, 1913. \$1.50. 8½ x 6.

A foreword by Professor H. F. Osborn characterizes this work as an "alarm call" to battle against the careless and selfish destruction of many forms of wild life. The writer in his preface champions the rights of 97 per cent of the people as against the 3 per cent whose main aim is to kill. Long closed seasons or a gameless continent—such is the alternative set before us as an incentive to immediate action.

Preceding the title page, we find in parallel columns a startling lesson. On the left is a paragraph quoted from the report of a committee of the Ohio legislature in 1857, soberly affirming that the passenger pigeon needed no protection. On the right is a picture showing on its perch the last living passenger pigeon, now twenty years old, in the Cincinnati Zoological Garden. An early chapter gives a list of a dozen or more species of North American birds which are now extinct. A further list is given of twenty-three species, all of which are now threatened with extinction.

Among the large mammals completely exterminated are the Arizona elk, the quagga, the blaubok, which is an African antelope, and Burchell's zebra of Africa. Almost extinct are the Tasmanian wolf, West Indian seal, California elephant seal and California grizzly bear. "The Regular Army of Destruction," "Guerillas of Destruction" and "Unseen Foes of Wild Life" are somewhat sensational but effective chapter heads which bind attention to astonishing disclosures. Striking revelations are made of the slaughter of song birds by Italians, the destruction of song birds in the South by negroes and poor whites, and extermination for women's hats. A list of over sixty species is given of birds thus undergoing extermination for London and other European markets.